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Agenda item 134
Programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen
Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel
Panel of Experts on Yemen

Twenty-eighth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/68/327/Add.11). The report contains the proposed additional resource requirements for 2014 for the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen, and the 2014 resource requirements for the newly established Panel of Experts on Yemen, in an amount totalling $3,940,500 net ($4,148,000 gross), and an update on the leadership of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel. During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 6 May 2014.

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/247, approved the total amount of $596,826,600 for the budgets of the 36 special political missions authorized by the Assembly and/or the Security Council, and approved a charge totalling $596,826,600 net against the provision for special political missions requested as part of the proposed resources for section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015, amounting to a total of $1,197,957,200, for the biennium.

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II. Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen

3. By its resolution 68/247, the General Assembly approved a budget of $4,091,600 net of staff assessment for the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen for 2014 in order to ensure the full and effective implementation of Security Council resolutions 2014 (2011), 2051 (2012) and 2140 (2014), and the Transition Agreement (see A/68/327/Add.11, paras. 1-5). In accordance with an exchange of letters with the President of the Security Council in June 2012 (S/2012/469 and S/2012/470), the Secretary-General established the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen, which will continue to exercise the Secretary-General's good offices role, including through regular and frequent visits to Yemen, to engage closely with all sides in Yemen.

4. According to the report, additional resource requirements are being requested as a result of a security risk assessment in March 2014 by the Department of Safety and Security, which recommended additional security measures to mitigate the increasing risks to the Special Adviser. Revised planning assumptions are provided (see A/68/327/Add.11, para. 6) and it is indicated that the unpredictable requirements for the travel of the Special Adviser in response to requests by local stakeholders are often decided at short notice and necessitate a dedicated security presence in the country to support the security management, planning and coordination requirements for office security and close protection operations. Such a team is not currently present in Yemen; rather, security officers are reassigned from other United Nations offices, which practice, according to the report, is not sustainable.

5. According to the report, it is proposed to abolish one Field Service position of Security Officer and to establish a position of Chief Security Officer at the P-3 level. In addition, it is proposed to establish a dedicated close protection team of 10 Field Service staff (A/68/327/Add.11, para. 9). The team would also support the Panel of Experts on Yemen (see para. 19 below). Moreover, the Secretary-General proposes the establishment of one Administrative Officer position at the Field Service level and four Local-level positions, comprising one Finance and Budget Assistant, one Logistics Assistant and two Drivers (ibid.). **The Advisory Committee has no objections to the proposed staffing changes.**

6. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that efforts would be made to coordinate close protection requirements between the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen and the Panel of Experts on Yemen to the extent possible. The Committee was provided with a table of the location of close protection teams and the number of officers in each mission worldwide, totalling 254 Protective Services Officers (see the annex to the present report).

7. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to review the organizational arrangements and related resources for close protection in peacekeeping and special political missions of the United Nations from the viewpoint of effectiveness and efficiency of these services and to report thereon to the Assembly.**

8. In paragraph 8 of his report, the Secretary-General states that the proposed net additional requirements of $1,493,100 ($1,637,700 gross) would provide for salary and common staff costs for international staff ($794,200) and national staff

($108,200), facilities and infrastructure ($404,500), ground transportation ($40,000), communications ($82,200), information technology ($49,200) and other supplies, services and equipment ($50,100). Additional net requirements represent a 36.5 per cent increase as compared to the 2014 approved budget and are offset in part by a reduction in the existing provision under official travel in the amount of $35,300. An amount of $446,600 of the additional net requirements represents non-recurring security costs to ensure compliance with minimum operating security standards for premises and various equipment, and alteration and renovation services to accommodate additional personnel.

9. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that for the period from May to December 2014, a vacancy rate of zero per cent had been applied to all additional international and national positions, which measure assumed that all those positions would be filled as of 1 May 2014. **The Committee questions the possibility of filling all additional positions as of 1 May 2014 and, in view of the time required for recruitment, therefore recommends for all of them a vacancy rate of 50 per cent for the first eight months (May-December 2014). The Committee also recalls the Assembly's request that the Secretary-General ensure that vacant posts be filled expeditiously (see resolution 66/264).**

10. During its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee enquired about the frequency and length of the Special Adviser's visits to Yemen and the rationale for the fact that the Special Adviser was not based in Yemen. The Committee was informed that the Special Adviser was based in New York owing to the need for frequent briefings to the Security Council, which were to take place every 60 days (every 30 days previously).

III. Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel

11. In paragraph 11 of his report the Secretary-General recalls that the General Assembly, in section VI, paragraph 6 of its resolution 68/247, requested the Secretary-General to review the appropriate level of leadership arrangements for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel. In paragraph 12, the Secretary-General states further that in October 2012 he appointed a Special Envoy for the Sahel to develop and oversee the implementation of an integrated strategy for addressing the root causes of insecurity in the region. According to paragraph 14 of the report, on 1 January 2014, after extensive consultations with Member States, the Secretary-General relocated the Office of the Special Envoy from Rome to Dakar to be co-located with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa. Upon conclusion of the tenure of the Special Envoy, as stated in paragraph 15 of the report, the responsibility for the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel was entrusted to the United Nations system in the region, by placing the Office of the Special Envoy under the overall authority of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa.

12. Moreover, according to paragraph 15 of the report, on 24 January 2014, the Secretary-General wrote to the President of the Security Council to inform him of the change in leadership of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel (S/2014/51) and a hand-over meeting from the Special Envoy to the

Special Representative was organized in Dakar on 17 February 2014, in order to ensure continued leadership. As stated in paragraph 17 of the report, recruitment of the head of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel at the Assistant Secretary-General level is in its final stages and upon selection, the Special Envoy and Head of Office will oversee the daily work related to the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, engage with senior United Nations and non-United Nations actors, and provide political and strategic advice to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa. In paragraph 18 of his report, the Secretary-General recommends maintaining the position of the Head of Office at the Assistant Secretary-General level, under the overall authority of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa.

13. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the position of Special Envoy at the level of Under-Secretary-General on a when actually employed basis had been phased out at the end of January 2014. With effect from 1 January 2014, the Head of Office position at the D-2 level had been upgraded to the level of Assistant Secretary-General, as Special Envoy and Head of Office. The recruitment process for that position was currently in its final stage. Pending the recruitment of the new Special Envoy for the Sahel, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa provided valuable strategic direction. The Committee was also informed that the Special Envoy for the Sahel would have an independent mandate, with support provided by the Office of the Special Envoy in Dakar. The incumbent would report to the Secretary-General through the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs. The Committee was further informed that there would be synergies between the work of the Special Envoy and that of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa in terms of ensuring a strategic vision for the region.

14. **The Advisory Committee recommends maintaining the position of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel at the level of Assistant Secretary-General.**

IV. Panel of Experts on Yemen

15. The Advisory Committee recalls that, by its resolution 2140 (2014), the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to create, for an initial period of up to 13 months, a group of up to four experts, known as the "Panel of Experts", under the direction of the sanctions committee established in the same resolution, to monitor the sanctions regime, consisting of an assets freeze and a travel ban. The Panel will collect information on and monitor the implementation of the measures imposed by the Council.

16. The Secretary-General indicates that the Panel of Experts is expected to conduct extensive field work and on-site investigation of reported alleged violations, and to make recommendations as a result. Expected accomplishments of the Panel are (a) enhanced capacity of the Security Council to take follow-up action on alleged violations, (b) enhanced capacity of the Council to adjust the sanctions regime and (c) improved compliance by States and other entities with the sanctions measures (see A/68/327/Add.11, table 3). The Panel is expected to seek the cooperation and assistance of international, national and subregional organizations,

the United Nations country team in Yemen, including the Office of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Yemen, and various sanctions monitoring teams, groups and panels. The Panel will be home-based, with a limited presence of experts expected in Yemen.

17. The Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that the total proposed resource requirements of $2,477,400 net were inclusive of the non-recurring requirements of $343,500 and reflected a staffing table of eight positions. Civilian personnel costs of $576,500 comprised salary and common staff costs for one Political Affairs Officer at the P-3 level to be based in New York and five Field Service Close Protection Officers based in Sana'a, in addition to two local Drivers. Operational costs included fees ($327,200) and official travel of the four members of the Panel of Experts for nine months ($343,100), official travel of staff ($343,300), acquisition of security equipment, rental of premises and security services ($346,100), purchase and rental of vehicles and related costs ($381,000), communications equipment and services ($59,900), information technology equipment and services ($23,800), and miscellaneous supplies and services ($46,500).

18. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that it was preferable to purchase rather than to rent two armoured vehicles for the Panel of Experts. Despite the expected limited presence in Yemen of the Panel of Experts, the renting of armoured vehicles was deemed to be uneconomical owing to unfavourable rental rates on the local market. In addition, the Committee was informed upon enquiry that owing to a rise in the incidents of abductions involving United Nations personnel, armoured vehicles were considered by the Department for Safety and Security as the only reliable mitigation measure in order to prevent hostage-taking.

19. According to the report of the Secretary-General (A/68/327/Add.11), it is proposed to establish one position at the P-3 level (see para. 16 above) which will be mainly responsible for providing substantive advice and support to the Panel of Experts and serving as a focal point for drafting reports to the Security Council. It is further proposed to establish a full-time, close protection team, comprising one Close Protection Shift Leader and four Close Protection Officers at the Field Service level, and that the team will be supported by two local Drivers. The Secretary-General explains that the team will be based in Yemen and will provide a dedicated security capacity to the Panel, leveraging security support from the close protection team of the Office of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Yemen whenever the Special Adviser is not in Yemen (see para. 5 above). At other times, it is proposed that the Panel will supplement its close protection team with a security detail from other United Nations offices. Upon further enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that for 2014, a 50 per cent vacancy rate had been applied for the Political Affairs Officer and a 33 per cent vacancy rate had been applied for the close protection officers as well as the local Drivers. **The Committee questions the possibility of filling all these positions according to the above-mentioned schedule and, in view of the time required for recruitment, recommends for all of them a vacancy rate of 50 per cent for the first nine months (April-December 2014). The Committee also recalls the request of the General Assembly that the Secretary-General ensure that vacant posts be filled expeditiously (see resolution 66/264).**

V. Conclusion

20. The Secretary-General's proposal for action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen and the Panel of Experts on Yemen is set out in paragraph 32 of his report (A/68/327/Add.11).

21. **Taking into account the recommendations in paragraphs 9, 14 and 19 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly:**

(a) **Take note of the report of the Secretary-General;**

(b) **Approve the additional resources in the total amount of $3,265,100 net ($3,377,900 gross) for the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen and the Panel of Experts on Yemen;**

(c) **Approve a charge in the amount of $3,265,100 (net of staff assessment) against the provision for special political missions appropriated under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.**

Annex

Location of close protection teams and number of officers (as at 11 April 2014)

Location	*Mission entity*	*Total number of Protective Services Officers*
Afghanistan	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan	31
Burundi	United Nations Office in Burundi	4
Central African Republic	United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic	4
Côte d'Ivoire	United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire	13
Cyprus	United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus	2
Democratic Republic of the Congo	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	9
Guinea-Bissau	United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau	4
Haiti	United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti	7
Iraq	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq	24
Israel/West Bank/Gaza	United Nations Special Coordinator Office for the Middle East Peace Process	8
Israel/West Bank/Gaza	United Nations Truce Supervision Organization	5
Israel/West Bank/Gaza	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	5
Lebanon	Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon	22
Liberia	United Nations Mission in Liberia	6
Libya	United Nations Support Mission in Libya	10
Mali	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali	5
North Darfur	African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur	24
Somalia	United Nations Political Office for Somalia/United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia	8
	United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia	
South Lebanon	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon	24
South Sudan	United Nations Mission in South Sudan	12
Syrian Arab Republic	Office of the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria	6
Syrian Arab Republic	Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations for the Elimination of the Chemical Weapons Programme of the Syrian Arab Republic	12
Syrian Golan Heights	United Nations Disengagement Observer Force	9
Total		**254**

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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Thematic cluster III: United Nations Support Mission in Libya

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on proposed resource requirements for 2014 for the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) (A/68/327/Add.12) additional to those included in the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/68/327/Add.3). The additional requirements relate to the strengthening and restructuring of the Security Section of UNSMIL to increase its ability to provide security for the Mission and its staff. During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 22 May 2014.

2. In paragraph 6 of his report (A/68/327/Add.12), the Secretary-General indicates that while the major foreseeable developments remain the same as stipulated by the Secretary-General in the proposed budget for 2014 (A/68/327/Add.3), the security situation in Libya continued to deteriorate in early 2014, and the national armed forces remain, as yet, unable to provide adequate protection to United Nations staff and premises. He adds that threats emanating from armed clashes between rival armed groups, activities of extremists, as well as general criminality as a result of a vacuum in law and order, remain high.

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3. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with information showing a significant increase in the reported number of incidents of terrorism, armed conflict and criminal activities. Furthermore, the Committee was informed that attack methodologies, such as vehicle-concealed improvised explosive devices, kidnappings and assassinations, which had hitherto been limited to the eastern locations of the country, had now spread to the central and southern regions as well. While all foreign and diplomatic personnel were considered equally at risk, the Committee was informed that the threat to UNSMIL staff could be considered greater owing to the significantly higher number of international staff of the Mission compared with diplomatic missions and the relative ease of being targeted given the lack of physical security and deterrent infrastructure in the UNSMIL compound.

4. The Secretary-General indicates that, in October 2013, the Department of Political Affairs, in consultation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNSMIL, deployed a joint directors' mission to Libya with the aim of taking stock of the ability of UNSMIL to deliver its mandate in the light of the prevailing challenges. He indicates that the joint mission included directors from the Department of Field Support, the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Safety and Security and the United Nations Development Programme, who confirmed the urgent need to implement measures that enhance the protection of United Nations personnel and installations, especially in the light of the lack of reliable national security forces.

5. Based on the findings of the joint directors' mission and consultations with the senior management of the United Nations Secretariat, the following options were considered in order to improve security for the staff in Libya:

(a) A United Nations guard unit consisting of up to 235 military personnel mandated to guard and protect the UNSMIL compound and United Nations personnel and properties therein. The guard unit would also be able to assist in the relocation of United Nations personnel under imminent threat of physical violence to safer locations. In paragraph 10 of his report, however, the Secretary-General indicates that the deployment of the guard unit proved to be unfeasible in the prevailing political and security circumstances in Libya;

(b) An armed private security company contracted to perform the functions of the guard unit. In paragraph 11 of his report, the Secretary-General indicates that the General Assembly, in its resolution 67/254, had recommended that the United Nations proceed with the recruitment of an armed private security company only as a last resort and when other alternatives are inadequate. Therefore, this option was not pursued;

(c) The strengthening and restructuring of the Security Section of UNSMIL to increase its ability to provide security for the Mission and its staff. This option forms the basis of the current proposal of the Secretary-General. It is indicated that the strengthened Security Section will provide static security for the UNSMIL headquarters compound, and will maintain a capacity to deploy quick reaction forces to extract United Nations personnel under imminent threat from surrounding locations.

II. Strengthening of the Security Section

6. The Secretary-General indicates that the proposed strengthening of the Security Section comprises an additional 80 positions and logistical resources as follows:

(a) One Chief Security Officer (P-4) and four Security Officers (P-3) from July to December;

(b) Augmentation of the existing units within the Security Section to allow for enhanced security response for the Sabha and Benghazi duty stations, by 20 Security Officer positions (Field Service) from February to December;

(c) Establishment of a compound security unit of 45 Security Officers (Field Service) from July to December, including four handlers for a K-9 section composed of two explosives sniffing dogs and two guard dog detachments;

(d) Establishment of a quick response team of 10 highly qualified Security Officers (Field Service) from July to December;

(e) Various items of equipment, including armoury containers, canine equipment, weapons and ammunition, closed circuit television monitoring systems and surveillance detection equipment.

7. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that 20 Field Service security positions had been authorized temporarily for UNSMIL on an exceptional basis by the Controller in February 2014. The Committee was further informed that 16 of those positions were currently encumbered and were deployed to Tripoli to perform compound security duties, which included: (a) patrolling of the UNSMIL compound 24 hours a day, seven days a week; (b) controlling access into and out of the compound, detection of threats, including improvised explosive or vehicle borne explosive devices; and (c) helping to repel attacks on the UNSMIL compound, if required. It was also explained that the 20 positions would form part of the 80 additional security positions requested in the current proposal of the Secretary-General.

8. Upon further enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with information on the phased deployment plan for each category of staff proposed by the Secretary-General (see table 1 below). On the basis of the current incumbency rate and the estimated vacancies given the Mission recruitment plan, the Committee was informed that the proposal reflected the following vacancy rates: 10 per cent for international staff; 15 per cent for national staff (Local level) and 5 per cent for United Nations Volunteers.

Table 1
Phased deployment plan for 2014

	Month											
	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
International staff												
P-4	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	1	1	1	1
P-3	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	4	4	4	4	4
Field Service	–	15	15	17	19	20	55	65	70	74	74	79

	Month											
	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
National staff (Local level)	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	4	6	7	8	9
United Nations Volunteers	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	2	2	2	2
Total	**–**	**15**	**15**	**17**	**19**	**20**	**62**	**75**	**83**	**88**	**89**	**95**

9. The Advisory Committee notes, from the information provided, that some of the increased workload related to the proposed expansion may be of a non-recurrent nature and not require the establishment of new positions. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that this had been reflected in the use of the temporary duty assignment mechanism to request resources for the non-recurrent activities. In that regard, the Committee was informed that a budgetary provision had been made for three temporary duty assignment personnel, two for the Engineering Section and one for the Procurement Section, who were expected to perform various temporary duties in those sections. **The Committee reiterates the view that temporary duty assignments should be used to address specific circumstances in missions that require a rapid, time-bound, temporary capacity and its recommendation that the receiving missions should cover all expenses relating to temporary duty assignments, with sending missions being fully reimbursed for the related salary costs** (A/68/782, para. 72).

10. Upon enquiry as to the existing capacity in the Security Section, the Advisory Committee was informed that 54 positions (3 P-3, 27 Field Service and 24 national staff (Local level)) had been approved for the current period. The Committee was also informed that the distribution of the functions was as follows:

(a) Protective security measures (including compound security and close protection of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General) — 12 Field Service and 14 Local level;

(b) Security threat information (including Security Officers and Analysts) — 4 Field Service and 1 Local level;

(c) Support/administration element (including training, access control/identification systems, investigations and administrative support staff) — 6 Field Service and 2 Local level;

(d) Support to Tripoli, Sabha and Benghazi outstations — 3 P-3, 3 Field Service and 2 Local level.

11. The Advisory Committee was informed that the provision of armed outer-ring physical security and rapid reaction forces on a full-time basis had placed a strain on the existing staffing and logistics. It was explained that this request for additional security personnel was predominantly related to such functions, which would ordinarily be the responsibility of the host country.

12. The Advisory Committee was informed that seven positions in the Security Section, including two Field Service and five Local level positions, were vacant as at 28 April 2014. **The Committee expects that the vacant positions will be filled expeditiously.**

III. Resource requirements

Table 2
Financial resources
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	Initial appropriation 2014	*Additional requirements*	*Non-recurrent requirements*	*Total requirements 2014*
Category of expenditure	*(1)*	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4) = (1) + (2)*
Civilian personnel costs	28 528.9	8 673.2	–	37 202.1
Operational costs	18 152.6	14 120.0	10 014.3	32 272.6
Total requirements	**46 681.5**	**22 793.2**	**10 014.3**	**69 474.7**

13. As indicated in table 2 above, the estimated additional requirements for 2014 amount to $22,793,200 net ($23,204,400 gross). Those resources would provide for 84 international staff positions (1 P-4, 4 P-3, 79 Field Service) ($8,004,900), 9 national staff positions (Local level) ($596,800), 2 United Nations Volunteer positions ($71,500) and $14,120,000 to cover operational costs. A summary of the resources approved for 2014, listed by category of expenditure, as well as the additional requirements being proposed by the Secretary-General, is presented in the annex to the present report.

Civilian personnel costs

Staffing

14. A summary of the proposed staffing positions is provided in table 2 of the report of the Secretary-General. In addition to the 80 positions proposed for the Security Section, the Secretary-General proposes a support complement of 15 positions as follows: 2 positions for the Personnel Section (1 Field Service, 1 United Nations Volunteer); 2 positions for the Finance Section (1 Field Service, 1 United Nations Volunteer); 1 position for the Central Warehouse and Distribution Section (Field Service); and 10 positions for the Transport and Movement Control Section (1 Field Service, 9 Local level). The Secretary-General indicates, in paragraph 15, that the 9 Local level positions proposed for the Transport and Movement Control Section will serve as Drivers and Mechanics.

15. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the additional staffing positions proposed for the Security Section and trusts that they will be adequate to provide the required level of protection to the staff and installations of UNSMIL. As for the additional positions requested for the Mission Support Division, the Committee believes that some of the functions can be performed using the existing staffing capacity. Therefore, the Committee recommends against the establishment of 1 United Nations Volunteer position in the Finance Section and 1 Local level position in the Transport and Movement Control Section. The Committee also recommends a corresponding adjustment to the operational requirements for those two positions.**

Danger pay

16. The additional requirements proposed for international staff amount to $8,004,900, which includes $2,826,000 for danger pay allowance. According to the information provided to the Advisory Committee, the provision includes danger pay allowance not only for the additional staff proposed, but also for the existing international staff based in Tripoli. It is explained that the approved budget for 2014 did not include provisions for danger pay for both national and international staff located in Tripoli because the payment of this allowance was authorized for Tripoli after the budget had been finalized. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the proposed requirements also included danger pay allowance for six international contractual personnel from the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) who are assigned to the mine action services of the Mission.

Operational costs

17. The additional resources requested for operational requirements amount to $14,120,000, comprising: official travel ($130,400), facilities and infrastructure ($7,260,900), ground transportation ($2,692,200), communications ($1,809,300), information technology ($830,000), medical ($151,900) and other supplies, services and equipment ($1,245,300).

Communication

18. The additional resources requested under communication amount to $1,809,300, which includes non-recurrent requirements of $1,744,400, proposed for the acquisition of communications equipment. According to the information provided to the Advisory Committee, the equipment mainly relates to the upgrade and replacement of the conventional VHF radio communications network of UNSMIL with a Tetra Trunking Network, which also includes a global positioning system tracking feature, to ensure communication safety in accordance with a recommendation of the Department of Field Support (see table 3 below). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, with the new system, the Mission would not only expand the coverage of its network, but would also have the ability to locate and monitor the whereabouts of its vehicles.

Table 3
Breakdown of communications equipment

Description	*Number*	*Cost (Thousands of United States dollars)*
VHF/UHF equipment		
Mobile radio, trunking UHF	93	64.2
Handheld radio, trunking UHF	375	301.9
Base station, trunking UHF	5	5.8
Switch, trunking (5 sites)	1	805.0
Base site	3	310.5
Miscellaneous equipment		
Tetra service package	1	134.6
Tetra console with global positioning system tracking	1	69.0
Total	**479**	**1 691.0**

Information technology

19. An additional provision of $830,000 is requested under information technology, which includes non-recurrent requirements of $709,700 for the acquisition of equipment related to the additional staff. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the acquisitions would not only cover the necessary information technology resources for the additional staff, but would also extend the information technology infrastructure and provide improved secure connectivity. Upon request, the Committee was provided with a detailed list of the equipment (see table 4 below). The Committee notes that the 113 laptop computers, as indicated in the list of equipment, exceed the number of additional staff proposed. **The Committee reiterates that efforts should made to ensure that the holdings of information technology equipment in missions are brought in line with the standards prescribed in the Standard Cost and Ratio Manual. However, where mission-specific operational circumstances may require variances in holdings as compared with the standard ratios, the Secretary-General should be requested to provide adequate justification** (A/66/718, para. 91). **The Committee reiterates that the ratios for computer holdings should also take into consideration the quantities of devices set aside for general purposes and that the guidance in the Standard Cost and Ratio Manual should be updated accordingly** (A/68/782, para. 151). **In that regard, the Committee recommends a reduction in the number of laptop computers to 93 in order to more closely correspond with the number of additional staff** (see also para. 15 above).

Table 4
Information technology equipment proposed

Item	*Number of units*	*Cost (Thousands of United States dollars)*
Laptop computers	113	107.2
Monitors	40	8.0
Network switches	26	89.7
Scanner image/digital sender	6	17.2
Server rack	4	41.4
Uninterruptible power supply 10 kVA	4	10.6
Wireless kit	8	340.4
Wireless controller	1	34.5
Wireless access points	30	27.6
Network printers	12	33.1
Total	**244**	**709.7**

Mine clearing services

20. The additional resources requested under other supplies, services and equipment amount to $1,245,300, which includes requirements of $105,600 proposed for mine clearing services. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the range of activities covered under this provision was broader than the traditional mine detection and mine removal, commonly referred to as demining.

The Committee was further informed that the activities in Libya, as mandated by the Security Council in paragraph 7 (d) of its resolution 2095 (2013), supported Libyan efforts to counter the illicit proliferation of all arms and related material, which included, for instance, survey and destruction of unexploded ordnance, facilitation of international assistance through coordination meetings and quality assurance activities, technical and operational support to the development of Libyan institutions, destruction of ammunition stockpiles and ensuring the physical security and safety of ammunition and small arms.

21. **Subject to its recommendation in paragraphs 15 and 19 above, the Advisory Committee has no objection to the additional resources requested by the Secretary-General under operational costs.**

IV. Recommendation

22. The action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the additional resources proposed for UNSMIL for 2014 is indicated in paragraph 19 of the report of the Secretary-General. **Taking into account its comments in paragraphs 15 and 19 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly:**

(a) **Approve additional resources in the total amount of $22,732,700;**

(b) **Approve a charge totalling $22,732,700 against the provision for special political missions appropriated under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.**

Annex

United Nations Support Mission in Libya

Financial resources for 2014

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category of expenditure	Initial appropriation 2014 (1)	Additional requirements (2)	Non-recurrent requirements (3)	Total requirements (4) = (1) + (2)
I. Civilian personnel costs				
1. International staff	25 899.2	8 004.9	–	33 904.1
2. National staff	2 432.6	596.8	–	3 029.4
3. United Nations Volunteers	197.1	71.5	–	268.6
Total category I	**28 528.9**	**8 673.2**	**–**	**37 202.1**
II. Operational costs				
1. Government-provided personnel	742.0	–	–	742.0
2. Consultants	1 210.8	–	–	1 210.8
3. Official travel	1 124.6	130.4	–	1 255.0
4. Facilities and infrastructure	9 514.8	7 260.9	4 609.7	16 775.7
5. Ground transportation	369.6	2 692.2	2 617.4	3 061.8
6. Communications	2 230.9	1 809.3	1 744.4	4 040.2
7. Information technology	570.7	830.0	709.7	1 400.7
8. Medical	222.7	151.9	41.1	374.6
9. Other supplies, services and equipment	2 166.5	1 245.3	292.0	3 411.8
Total category II	**18 152.6**	**14 120.0**	**10 014.3**	**32 272.6**
Total requirements	**46 681.5**	**22 793.2**	**10 014.3**	**69 474.7**

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Programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference

Modalities for the third International Conference on Financing for Development

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/68/L.49

Thirtieth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/68/L.49 on the modalities for the third International Conference on Financing for Development (A/C.5/68/24). During its consideration of the statement, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 18 June 2014.

2. In the introduction to his statement, the Secretary-General indicated that the third International Conference on Financing for Development responded to a mandate from the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2002, and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha in 2008.

3. As indicated in paragraph 2 of the statement, under the terms of operative paragraphs 1, 2, 6, 11, 12, 13, 21 and 22 of draft resolution A/68/L.49, the General Assembly would, inter alia: decide that the Conference be held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015; emphasize the need for effective coordination between the preparatory process for the Conference and the preparations for the summit to be

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held in September 2015 for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda; request the President of the General Assembly, in consultations with Member States, to provide a programme of work, from within existing resources; request that the first draft of the outcome document be prepared by the co-facilitators on the basis of informal consultations, taking into account inputs from Member States and presented by February 2015; and request the Secretary-General to provide all appropriate support to the work of the preparatory process of the Conference and to the Conference itself.

II. Resource implications of the proposals

4. As indicated in sections V and VI of the statement, the proposals of the Secretary-General, pursuant to the draft resolution, would entail additional resource requirements in the amount of $1,808,700 for the biennium 2014-2015, comprising $1,727,500 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference services; $18,200 under section 12, Trade and development; and $63,000 under section 28, Public information. The activities to be undertaken in relation to the proposals of the Secretary-General are outlined in paragraphs 4 to 15 of his statement. The Advisory Committee makes comments and recommendations, where relevant, in the paragraphs below.

III. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

5. Section IV of the statement of the Secretary-General contains the planned activities set out below to be undertaken in the implementation of the draft resolution, at an estimated cost of $1,727,500 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference services.

Third International Conference on Financing for Development

6. As indicated in paragraph 3 above, the Conference will be held in Addis Ababa over a four-day period, from 13 to 16 July 2015, pursuant to operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of the draft resolution. It is anticipated that, during the four-day period, six meetings with interpretation in all six official languages of the United Nations will be held each day, for a total of 24 meetings. The Secretary-General further indicates that the request for documentation contained in operative paragraphs 1 (d) and 12 of the draft resolution would entail the production of one post-session document and that the Government of Ethiopia, as the host, would need to defray additional costs directly or indirectly involved, in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 40/243.

Thematic sessions, interactive hearings, informal consultations and the organization of work of the Conference

7. In paragraphs 7 to 12 of his statement, the Secretary-General outlines several activities, including meetings, sessions, interactive hearings and informal

consultations, to be undertaken in preparation for the Conference, pursuant to operative paragraphs 11, 12 and 13 of the draft resolution. In particular, 20 meetings would be held for thematic substantive sessions and 26 meetings for informal sessions and drafting sessions.

8. The Advisory Committee notes that the activities proposed by the Secretary-General include an estimated total of 60 meetings with interpretation in all six official languages to be held for additional consultations and drafting sessions, pursuant to operative paragraph 13 of the draft resolution. The estimated number of meetings is based on the experience of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals between March 2013 and February 2014. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that because a large number of delegations, including representatives from civil society and the private sector had participated in the meetings of the Open Working Group, interpretation had been considered necessary. The Committee was further informed that, given the specific nature of the process for the third International Conference, it was anticipated that participating delegates and other stakeholders with special expertise would expect services similar to those that had been provided to the Open Working Group.

9. The Advisory Committee was also informed that, while the Open Working Group meetings had been spread over a two-year period, most of the consultations related to the preparatory process for the Conference on Financing for Development would be held during the six-month period from January to June 2015.

10. **The Advisory Committee takes note of the significantly shorter six-month time frame for the planned consultations and questions whether the estimated number of 60 additional meetings over that period is realistic. In addition, the Committee is of the view that because every preparatory process is unique in terms of activities and participation, the experience of the preparatory process for the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals might not be a reliable basis for the resource estimates relating to the Conference on Financing for Development. Therefore, the Committee recommends a reduction of $222,800 in the additional resource requirements requested under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, representing an approximate reduction of 20 meetings. Should further resources be required, they should be reflected in the related performance report.**

11. The Advisory Committee notes that, in paragraph 8 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly invited the Economic and Social Council to contribute to the preparation of the Conference, as appropriate, including through its 2015 special high-level meeting with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The Committee also notes the request of the Secretary-General for additional resources in the amount of $18,200 under section 12, Trade and development, to provide for the travel of two UNCTAD staff members from Geneva to New York to participate in the 2015 special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the travel of one UNCTAD staff member from Geneva to New York to service the informal consultations and drafting sessions for the preparation of the outcome document.

12. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the participation of the UNCTAD Geneva-based staff in the special high-level meeting depended

primarily on the topic to be discussed. In this particular case, the Committee was informed that the participation of the two staff members was based on their specific high-level expertise in relation to the cutting edge work of UNCTAD on systemic financial issues in areas such as debt, volatile capital flows and unstable exchange rates, which would be discussed at the Conference and during its preparatory process. As to the reason why the UNCTAD office in New York could not undertake that function, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the New York office performed functions that included attending relevant meetings in New York, liaising with Geneva as necessary and promoting the objectives of UNCTAD at United Nations Headquarters through interaction with relevant actors based in New York or Washington, D.C., including United Nations system entities, diplomatic missions, members of the press, research organizations and non-governmental organizations, as well as technical assistance agencies in the areas of trade, investment, technology and development. The Committee was also informed, however, that the office did not have subject matter experts who could provide substantive inputs to the preparatory processes of major conferences, such as the third International Conference on Financing for Development.

13. **While recognizing the importance of UNCTAD participation at the meeting, the Advisory Committee nonetheless believes that UNCTAD should absorb the travel costs of its staff, given that the special high-level meeting of the Council was an annual event in which UNCTAD regularly participates. In addition, the Committee is of the view that UNCTAD New York-based staff should be able to represent the organization in the informal consultations and drafting sessions. Therefore, the Committee recommends against the request of the Secretary-General for additional resources in the amount of $18,200 under section 12, Trade and development, of the regular budget for the biennium 2014-2015.**

14. In paragraphs 14 and 18 of his statement, the Secretary-General indicated that, pursuant to operative paragraph 22 of the draft resolution, additional resources amounting to $63,000 would be required for the Department of Public Information to support the preparatory process of the Conference and the Conference itself. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Department would begin promotional activities in 2014 to raise awareness of the Conference.

15. The activities to be undertaken in 2014 would include the preparation of brochures and posters at a cost of $6,000; the production of two videos for $10,000 and the allocation of $15,500 in seed funds to the United Nations information centres. The activities to be undertaken in 2015 would include the production of 10,000 press kits in New York, which would require external printing and translation for a total of $20,000; an additional video for $5,000; additional funding of $4,500 for the information centres; and the webcast streaming and storage of the Conference webcast for $2,000.

16. **The Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the $63,000 for the planned activities to be undertaken by the Department of Public Information to support the work of the preparatory process and the Conference itself. However, given that it is still relatively early in the biennium, the Committee encourages the Department to make every effort to absorb the additional expenditures within its existing resources and to report any variances in the relevant performance reports.**

Summit in September 2015

17. The Secretary-General indicated in para. 15 of his statement that the venue and modalities for the summit to be held in September 2015 for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda were yet to be finalized. In the absence of such details, therefore, the Secretary-General indicated that it was not possible at the time to determine the resource implications for the meetings and documentation required to implement operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution. He also indicated that as soon as that information was available, he would submit a request for additional resources in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

IV. Conclusion

18. The Advisory Committee recalls General Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, according to which the programme budget should include a contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall budget level, to accommodate additional expenditures relating to the biennium derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the available balance of the contingency fund for the current biennium, which had been established at $22,338,043 by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/247, was $16,421,300 as at 17 June 2014.

19. **In line with its comments and recommendations contained in paragraphs 10, 13 and 16 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/68/L.49:**

(a) **A revised appropriation of $1,504,700 would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015, under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management;**

(b) **The related amount of $1,504,700 would be charged to the contingency fund for the biennium 2014-2015.**